

**Viola Audio Laboratories**

## **Sonata Preamplifier**

### **User's Manual**

Preliminary

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## Introduction

The Sonata preamplifier as system consists of separate interconnected parts:

- Sonata preamplifier firmware, Application Software
- iPod Touch remote control applet software

Sonata receives its commands from the iPod Touch remote control applet through a dedicated TCP/IP port in a Wi-Fi network. When these commands are meant for the optional Sonata DAC card, it passes them along an internal local bus. Status and telemetry data is polled from the Crescendo's subsystem and pushed onto the iPod.

Sonata Application Software is used to set the system up (network/Wi-Fi settings) or set up features you would not want to give the remote control applet access to.

## IPod Touch setup

The Sonata can communicate on most Wi-Fi networks.

The Sonata is shipped with a preconfigured router. The settings are included with the Sonata documentation. Refer to **Supplied Router Network Setup** for instructions on how to set up the Sonata preconfigured router.

Most home networks consist of a wireless/wired router that several PCs hook into. Typically, a network like that has internet access. While the Sonata does not need to have access to the internet, most users find it convenient to give the iPod used for Sonata's remote control also access to the internet. To do this, the Sonata needs to have access to your home network.

The following discussion will guide you through the setup of either network.

## Viola Remote Application

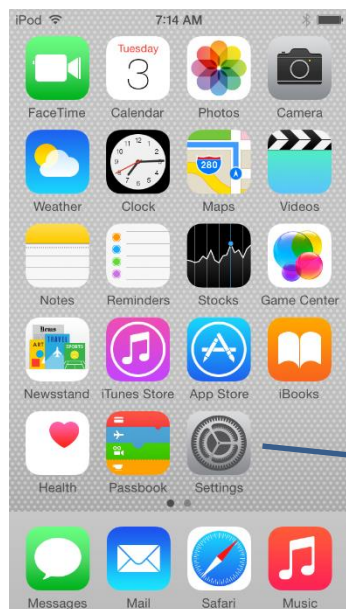
Install the free Viola Remote control applet from the apple store.

(<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/viola-remote/id563608611?ls=1&mt=8>)

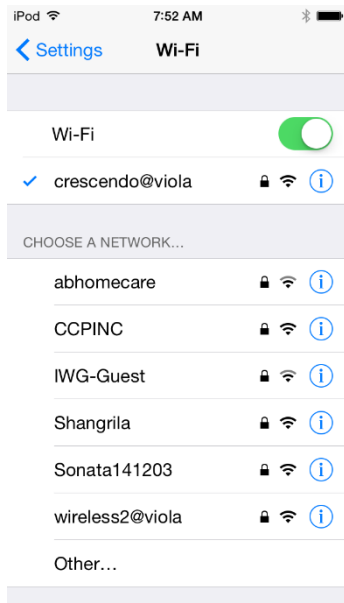
Also you can search within the App Store for "Viola Remote".

## Supplied Router Network Setup

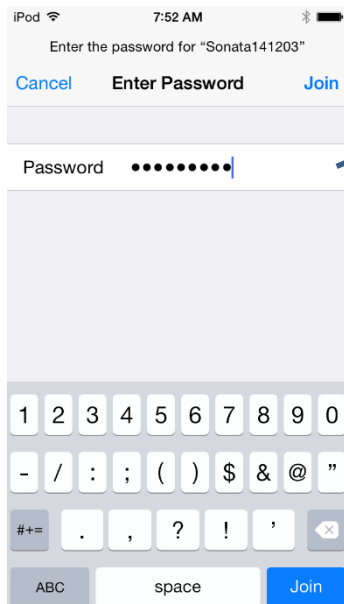
To establish remote control communication with the Sonata, unpack and power up the router. Power on the Sonata and download the Viola Remote application from the Apple App store (see link below) and install on the iPod Touch. The iPod will have to be connected to the internet for this step.



Once the application is installed on the iPod, connect to the router Wi-Fi network SSID using the password provided.



Select the SSID of the router.



Enter Password provided and press Join



Network Connection Successful

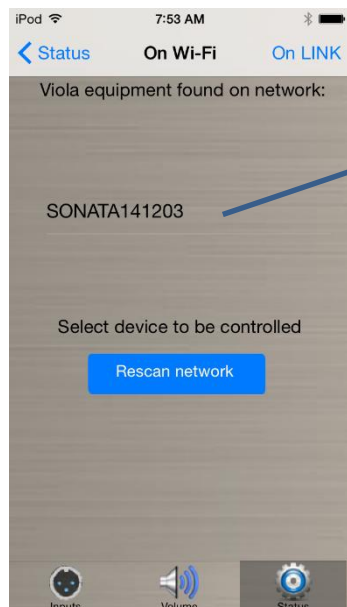
Launch the remote application and follow the following instructions on how to pair the iPod to the Sonata.



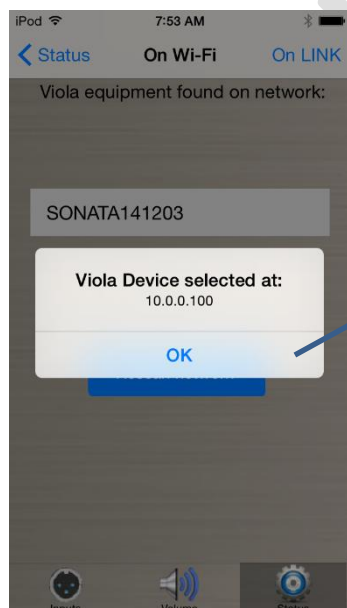
Then Network Setup

Choose Status

Network Setup will populate all Viola Audio Laboratories equipment found on the current Wi-Fi network. The Sonata ID is setup with Sonata followed by the serial number of the unit. If the list is empty you can hit the Rescan Network button until the device shows up in the list.



Press Sonata



Select OK to pair Sonata

You can now control the Sonata with the Remote application.

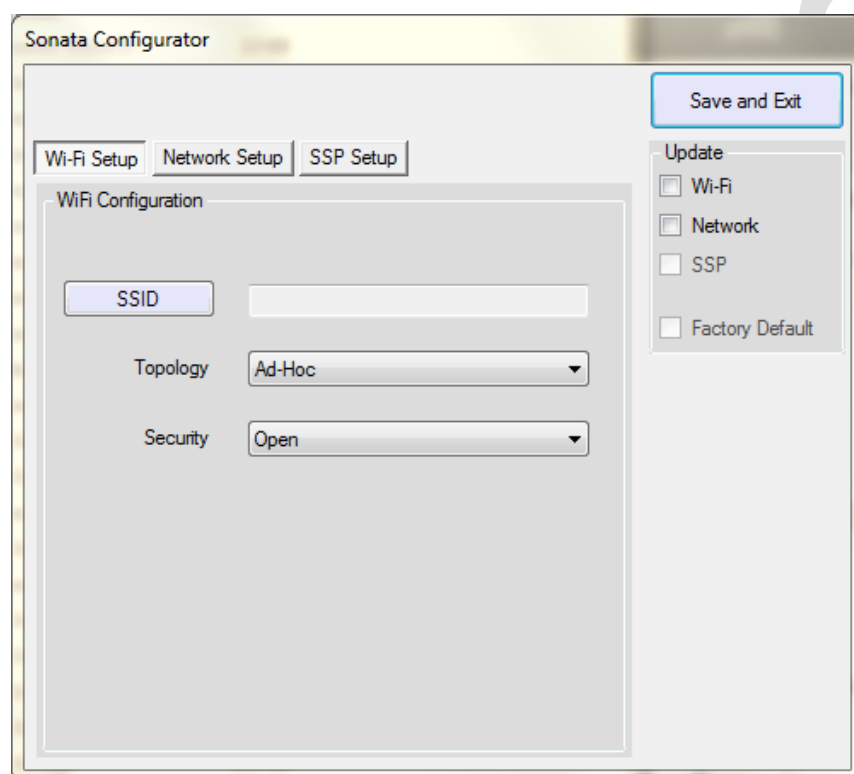


## Home Network Configuration

The Sonata is shipped with a preconfigured router. Since the Sonata does not need access to the internet this should be sufficient. We recommend using the router shipped with the Sonata.

It is possible to configure the Sonata for use on existing home networks using the Sonata Configuration Utility.

Launch SonataConfiguration.exe from the root of a USB key. We recommend that the key be formatted as FAT for the file system.



1. Click on the SSID button and enter the SSID of your router in the popup window and press done.
2. Choose Infrastructure from the Topology drop down list.
3. Choose the type of security for you router. Make sure that this matches your router settings.
4. Enter you router password. This will be different depending on if your router uses a Pass Phrase or Key. Most new routers use a Pass Phrase and not a hex key.

Sonata Configurator

Wi-Fi Setup | Network Setup | SSP Setup

WiFi Configuration

SSID: MyRouterSSID

Topology: Infrastructure

Security: WPA2 with Passphrase

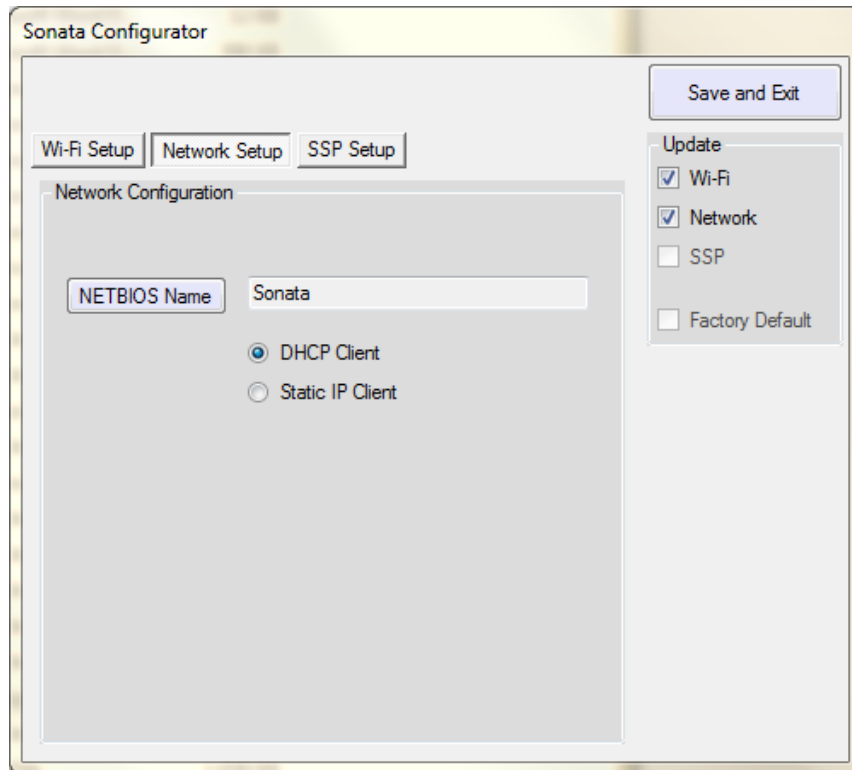
Phrase: MyPassPhrase

Save and Exit

Update

- ☐ Wi-Fi
- ☐ Network
- ☐ SSP
- ☐ Factory Default

Next Click the Network Setup Tab.



5. Click on the NETBIOS Name button if you want to change the default name. This is used by the Viola Remote application to identify the Viola preamplifier in the Network Setup list.
6. Select DHCP if your router is using a DHCP server or you can select Static IP Client to setup a static IP address.
7. Make sure you select Wi-Fi and Network in the Update panel and click the Save and Exit button.

This will create a cmd.txt file on the USB key. Insert the key into the USB Master on the rear of the Sonata Preamplifier. **Do not use the Power Supply USB Master.** The Sonata will reboot and load the new configuration. If the Sonata does not reboot, leave the USB key in the Sonata and unplug the power supply. Plug the supply back in and wait for the preamplifier to finish rebooting. You can remove the key. Go to the information page to verify the changes.

The iPod will have to be connected to your home network before using the Viola Remote application.

## Network Exclusivity

If you have set up other connections to networks that are actually in range, it is often best to not use them while you are using your Sonata. The reason for this is that the nature of the Apple device is such that it wants to always be connected to the internet and wants to search for a good connection to it all the time.

The only way to do that is to 'forget' the other networks:

Click on the network within range that you can connect to (screen 1, below). Click the '>' button on the right.

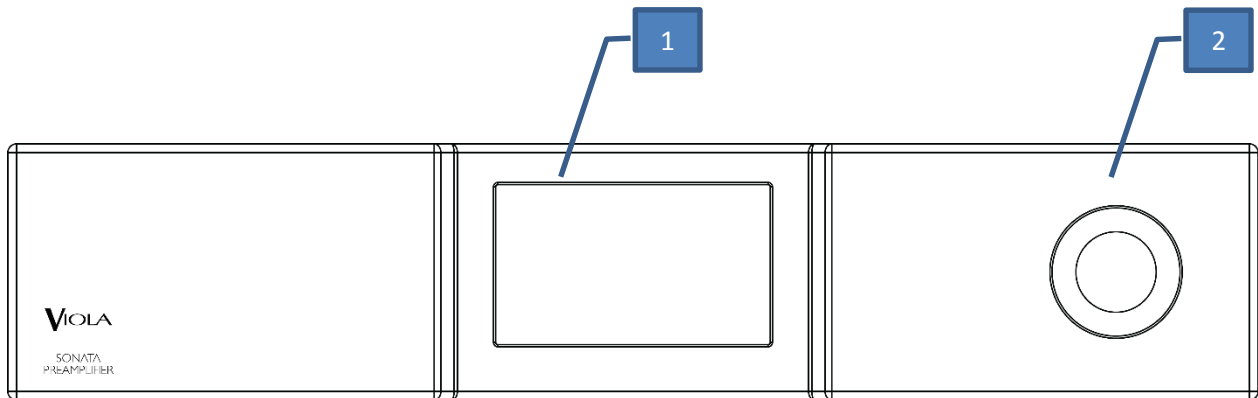


Click "forget this network" (screen 2, above). A dialog box will pop up, making sure you want to indeed forget this network. Acknowledge by hitting 'forget' and perform this action for all networks in range of your crescendo that you may have been connected to.

When all done, reconnect to your Sonata network (screen 3, above)

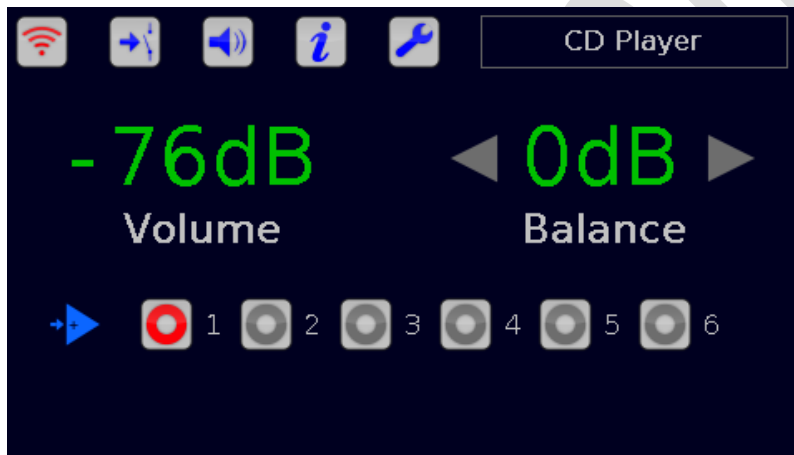
Close the iPod's network setup applet.

## Sonata Front Panel



### 1. Color Touchscreen

#### Home Screen





Active Analog Input. Current name will be shown upper right hand corner of the display.



Jump to Information Screen.



Information page will show current Sonata status including firmware versions and network configurations.



Return to Home Screen.



Jump to Setup page.



Display backlight timer OFF.



Display backlight timer ON.

When the display backlight timer is ON, the display controller will turn off after 30 seconds. This will turn off the backlight. Turning the multifunction dial will wake up the display. The display backlight will turn off again after 30 seconds. Turn the timer OFF to disable this feature.



Return to Home Screen

## 2. Multifunction Dial

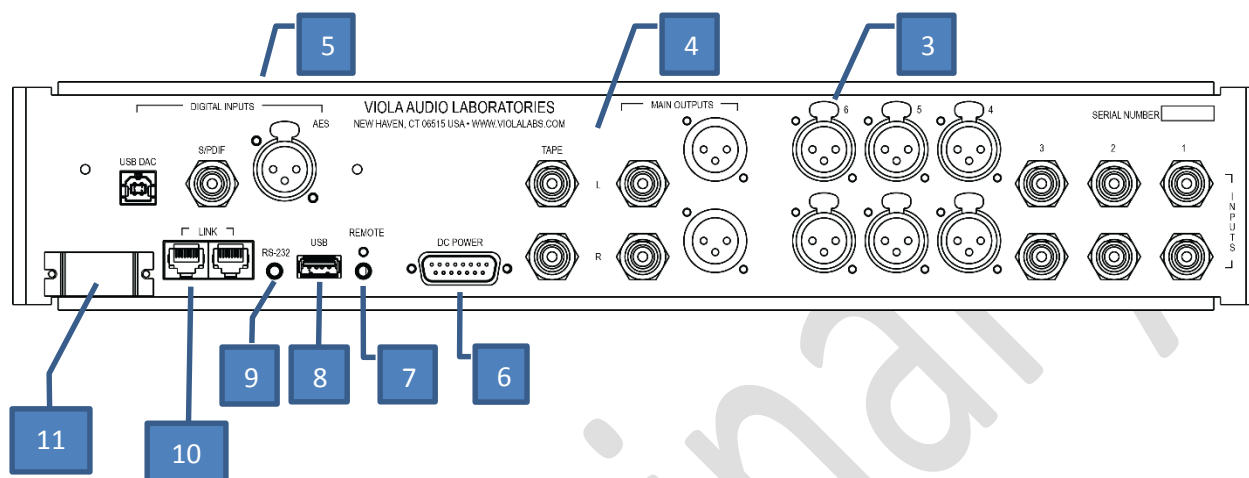
The multifunction dial has 3 modes of operation.

1. Volume adjustment
2. Balance adjustment
3. Standby

On startup the Sonata will default to Volume adjustment. Tap (quickly press and release) to enable Balance adjustment. The red arrow will indicate the direction of the balance increase. Tap again to return to Volume operation. Press and hold will put the Sonata in standby mode. Press and hold again to return to normal operation.



## Sonata Rear Panel



### 3. Analog Input Group

The Input Group consist of 3 RCA unbalanced and 3 XLR balanced inputs per channel.

### 4. Analog Output Group

The Output Group consist of a XLR balanced, a RCA unbalanced and a Tape (Fixed) output.

### 5. Digital Input Group

The optional digital input module adds an AES/EBU balanced input, a RCA S/PDIF input and a USB DAC input.

### 6. DC Power

This connects to the Sonata external power supply. Connect using the supplied DC power cable.

### 7. +12V Remote Trigger Output

This is used to remotely turn on power amplifiers with trigger inputs. This is enabled using the Sonata front panel or the IPod remote control application. +12V is applied to the output when the remote trigger is ON.

## 8. USB Master

This is used for Sonata preamplifier firmware updates. This connector will not provide power to a USB connected device.

## 9. RS-232 Input

Used for control of Sonata from external controllers including Crestron and RTI. Communication is 19,200 baud, 8 bits, no parity, no handshaking implemented.

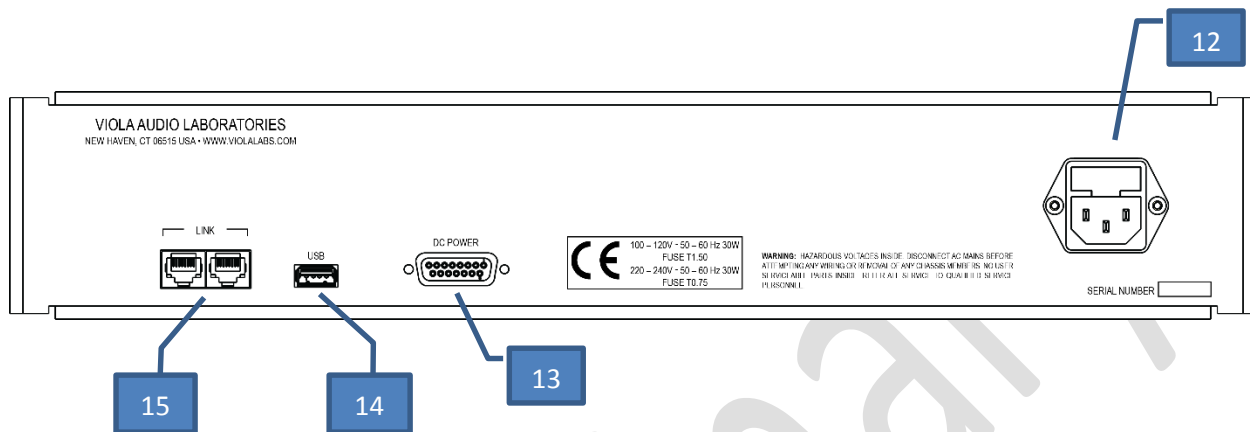
## 10. Link Bus Connector

This is used to control other Viola Audio Laboratories equipment. Use this connector to connect to the Sonata Power supply link connector. This will allow implementation of the Standby mode and telemetry data for the power supply on the link page of the remote application. **This is not an Ethernet connector. Do not connect anything to this except Viola equipment using the link bus connection.**

## 11. Wi-Fi Transmitter

Make sure you do not block the Wi-Fi transmitter. Keep clear of metal objects and cables. This will reduce that range and may cause dropouts when using the remote control application.

## Sonata Power Supply Rear Panel



### 12. AC Power IEC Connector

Connect to AC mains using a Grounded AC power cable.

### 13. DC Power Connector

Connect to Sonata Preamplifier using the supplied DC power cable.

### 14. USB Master

Used for Sonata Power Supply firmware updates.

### 15. Link Bus Connector

Connect to Sonata Preamplifier Link Bus Connector using a CAT 5 Ethernet Cable/

## Troubleshooting

Question: I can't seem to communicate at all.

Answer: Make sure the Sonata and iPod Touch are on the same network.

Question: My iPod Touch loses the connection to my Sonata when it goes into power saving mode.

Answer: make sure the iPod is only allowed to connect to the same network as your Sonata. See "Network Exclusivity"

Question: I seem to be communicating but I can't control the volume or input settings.

Answer: The Sonata is in power down mode. Go to the system – status tab and see if the power is off.

Question: I've tried everything and can't communicate.

Answer: try shutting the Sonata remote applet down and bringing it back up. Also try shutting down the Sonata power supply, then powering the unit back on.